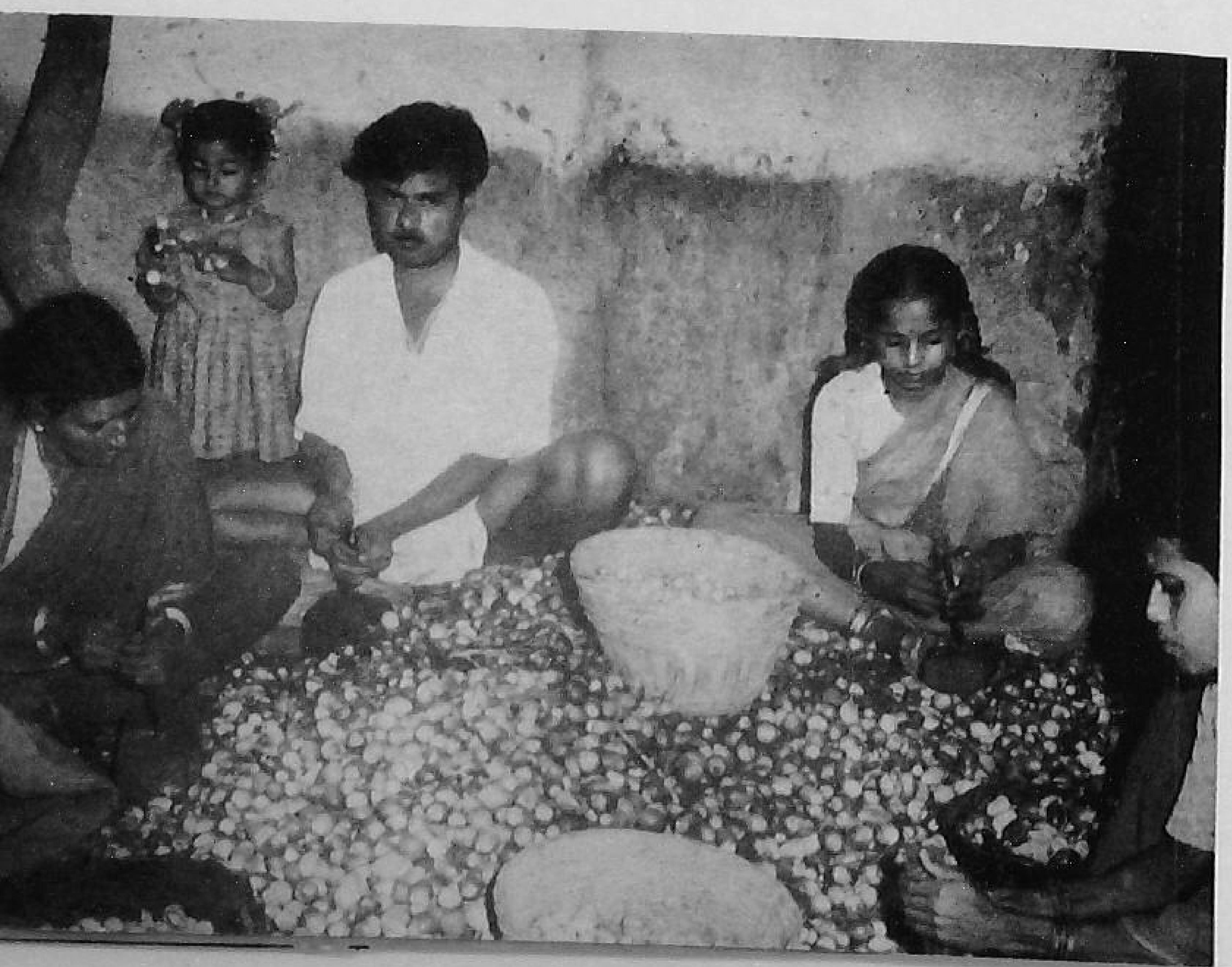
Growing of mulberry leaves for rearing silk-worms provides a paying subsidiary occupation to the peasant's family.

MYSORE FARMER'S CASH CROPS



Arecanut **(Supari)** *offers a good source of income to the farmer. Besides, it provides work for the whole family at home.*

Vol. IV JANUARY 1964 No. 10
PAUSA–1885

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BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 nP.
Annual : Rs. 1·25

All enquiries regarding agencies and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Panchayati Raj*, Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

LETTERS

CHARTER OF FREEDOM OF CO-OPERATIVES

Sir,

I WAS one of the delegates to the Fourth Indian Co-operative Congress held in New Delhi recently. The earnestness and frankness with which Shri S. K. Dey, the Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, pleaded that the overriding influence of politicians and officials be kept away from the co-operatives in order to ensure their healthy growth stirred me and many other colleagues deeply. His speech was a bold charter of freedom of the co-operatives. The interference by Government officials in the co-operatives is acclaimed to be an unmitigated evil, yet the Government have recently thought it fit to set up Central Government Employees' Co-operative Society under its direct management. The set-up of this Society is hardly in consonance with the democratic spirit of the co-operatives. Some progress has been made towards de-officialisation of the co-operative movement, but enough headway has not been made in ridding it of political bosses.

From my own experience as a co-operator in Delhi, I can say that in the hands of the politician, the co-operative receives a step-motherly treatment and does not flourish as it should. Though he has little time to spare for the day-to-day management of the co-operative and to help its business to grow, yet he manages to get elected to key positions in order to keep control over as many co-operatives as possible. Whereas their exit can be finally brought about only as a result of the majority opinion being built up against their continuing sway, the Government can also help in checking the evil. For instance, it will be worthwhile if a rule is made that no person can hold office in more than one or two different types of co-operatives at the same time.

2-12-63. Yours etc.,

Lodi Road, *KARMA NARAYAN*
NEW DELHI.

* * *

DISQUALIFYING TAX EVADERS

Sir,

THERE ARE some Panchayats which do precious little for the welfare and development of the village because their financial resources are too meagre. One of the main reasons for this sad plight is usually the carelessness on the part of the Panchayats to collect their taxes which run into huge arrears from year to year. The members of the Panchayat, taking advantage of their privileged position do not bother to pay their own share of the taxes. Many other villagers follow their example. Large amounts of taxes thus remain in arrears even after the term of the Panchayat is over. The new Panchayat finds it difficult to clear off this unpleasant inheritance. The result is that tax arrears go on mounting up. The evil would be prevented to some extent if legislation on Panchayati Raj provides for disqualifying tax evaders from contesting the elections to the Panchayati Raj bodies.

30-11-63 Yours etc.,

Sonepat, *HOSHIAR SINGH*
Punjab.

MIRACLE OF INTENSIVE CULTIVATION

Rupees 10,000 Net income from 8 acres

THE PRIME MINISTER while addressing the last meeting of the National Development Council had remarked, "I believe in Japan the ceiling on land is 7 acres. The average holding is 3½. And yet, the peasantry in Japan are the most prosperous individuals you come across in spite of their 3, 4 or 5 acres, because they are competent. They know their job. They are supplied with the materials to carry on, whether it is fertilisers or other equipment and things. They are very successful and Japan grows more per acre, per hectare, than almost any country in the world. That is the way we can see where progress lies. Here the fact of the matter is that we have not quite got out of the old zamindari mentality. We think in terms of large acres, large areas, and getting something at a low rate from them but spreading out so as to get more."

It is indeed an irony that while the small size of the peasants' holdings is generally held to be the greatest stumbling block in the development of agriculture in our country, the real problem of lack of intensive cultivation does not receive the recognition it deserves. A holding of 5 acres or even less if brought under intensive cultivation may yield more than what 50 acres of dry land, say, in a place like Rajasthan, does. The pattern of agricultural holdings being what it is in our country, intensive cultivation provides the only feasible solution to the increase of agricultural production.

This has been proved time and again by several progressive farmers who had the skill and means to achieve the same. One of them is Shri N. Venkate Gowda, a progressive farmer and chairman of Village Panchayat, Avathi, Devanhalli Taluk in Mysore State who may justifiably be regarded as a champion in this field. He is drawing a net income of Rs. 10,000 per year from 8 acres of land. By his example he has convincingly proved that agriculture can be as paying as any industry with similar investment. If even twenty per cent of our cultivators adopted the farming practices followed by him that would change the complexion of our agriculture. The impact of his system of farming is making itself felt directly or indirectly on several cultivators of the locality. That is why, in pursuance of the Public Service Award Scheme, the Mysore Government thought it fit to recognise his services by awarding him a shield on the occasion of the Dusshera festival, this year. He is invariably invited to address Gram Sahayaks' camps held in his Taluka or the district to communicate to them the farming tips he has gathered through experience over a number of years. Kisan parties on Bharat Darshan tours from other parts of the country would be well-rewarded to pay a visit to his farm.

A coconut plantation in the kitchen-garden or the field is part of the intensive cultivation followed in Mysore.

A BORN PEASANT

Thirtytwo year old Shri Venkate was born in a poor peasant's family. He passed his matriculation examination with flying colours getting about 78 per cent marks. He could not go beyond Intermediate classes because of the untimely death of his father who was the only earning member of his family. As the burden of the entire family fell on him, he had to resort to agriculture as the only means of earning his livelihood. Unlike other educated boys of today who develop aversion for professions like agriculture which involve bodily labour, he retained his interest for the same. He would tell you

with a sense of self-satisfaction that even as a school boy he used to grow vegetables in the kitchen-garden so that he could sell them for his pocket expenses.

In 1953, when he took over the ancestral land for self-cultivation, it yielded a paltry income of Rs. 1,000 only. It grew nothing but Ragi. He, therefore, turned his attention towards increasing the farm yield through various intensive cultivation measures. Being a keen observer, he saw the different farming practices being followed by good cultivators in his neighbourhood which helped them to grow richer and better crops. He adopted these on his own fields and largely through a process of self-experimentation, he succeeded in getting the maximum possible from his land.

The introduction of the C.D. programme in Devanhalli Taluka three years ago, gave further fillip to this all-out drive for more intensive cultivation. His progressive outlook fitted in well with the new orientation of the C.D. Block. He developed cordial contacts with the agricultural and extension staff who helped him to plan out a proper crop rotation scheme and to adopt suitable better farming methods.

When I visited his farm sometimes ago I was surprised to see that it was not a compact block but was scattered at four different places each not more than 2½ acres. I asked Shri Venkate if this fragmentation of land holdings did not stand in his way of further development of his agriculture. He replied, "Oh yes! It does obstruct. Had the plot been at one place, I would have been able to carry on with one big irrigation well; now I had to dig two wells to irrigate the plots at two different places; yet the third plot is still dry. Also there would have been some saving on labour and watch and ward. But what cannot be cured must be endured. I have to make the best of what I have got."

"How urgently called for is the scheme of consolidation of land holdings to overcome such inherent weaknesses of our system of agriculture!", thought I. At the same time, however, I could not help marvelling at the ingenuity and hard work put in by Shri Venkate who was able to earn so much from his four plots of 8 acres only. Even if a peasant owned only one out of his four plots as indeed many of them do and carried out intensive cultivation in the way Shri Venkate did, he would be able to earn 2,000 to 3,000 rupees a year. This showed a ray of hope to hundreds and thousands of our peasants who owned what are known as 'uneconomic holdings' and carried on a subsistence level.

SECRET OF SUCCESS

I was anxious to know the secret of success of Shri Venkate's farming practices. I, therefore, asked him what in his opinion constituted the most important step in his programme for intensive cultivation. After some thinking, he said, "We must first learn to value agriculture in terms of economics. Most of us never bother to keep an account of our income and expenditure on farming. Unless we do that, we would never take to intensive cultivation. Our effort should be to get the maximum out of our land. The first step, therefore, is to take as many crops as possible from the same field. For this, a crop rotation plan should be evolved keeping in view the local agro-climatic conditions and the marketable value of the produce." He showed me the detailed accounts, including the labour charges and all other expenditure he had incurred on every crop. In one plot of 3 acres, which is dry, he grows only *Ragi* from which he earns an income of Rs. 450. In another plot of 2½ acres which has irrigation facilities of a well and a pumping set, he cultivates three crops *viz.*, onions from April to July, *Ragi* from September to November, Potatoes from December to March and this gives him an income of Rs. 7,200. The third plot grows only mulberry throughout the year which helps him to rear silk-worms. From this subsidiary occupation, he draws an income of Rs. 2,200 per year. The fourth plot is wet land of ½ acre only which grows paddy and gives a net income of Rs. 350. In this way, the net income from the produce of 8 acres of his land is Rs. 10,200.

"What is the next step in the programme of intensive cultivation?" I inquired.

"It is to get maximum yield out of each crop by resorting to various better farming practices such as improved seeds, compost and fertilisers, assured irrigation supplies, improved agricultural implements, line sowing and utilising pesticides in case of pests and diseases."

He narrated to me the various efforts he had made to implement all these improved farming techniques. From his father, he had inherited only one irrigation well. But all the four plots being scattered at different places, one well could not irrigate all of them. Consequently, he took the first opportunity of sinking a well in his 2½ acre plot in which he is now growing three crops in a year. He is now planning to provide a third well on the remaining dry plot, too.

As we stood near the *Ragi* crop, I could not fail to notice its luxuriant growth. He informed me that it was due to two factors, *viz.*; (i) improved variety of seed and (ii) adequate quantity of fertilisers. Continuing, he explained to me the great pains that he had taken to develop his own improved seed. He said that three years ago, he had selected from his field the ears which promised to give the best corn. Through successive multiplication of the corn each year, he got enough improved seed for his 2½ acre plot. He told me that he had now come to know about a new early maturing variety of *Ragi* developed at the State Agricultural Research Farm which gives triple produce. He would be using it next year.

Continuing his discussion on the various measures for intensive cultivation, he pointed out that it was mixed farming which gave the most encouraging results. He had found it profitable to grow vegetables and some fruit trees in his kitchen-garden for home consumption as well as for sale. He has recently planted some grapes, papitas and chikoos and thereby hopes to further raise his income by Rs. 1,000. He has recently started a poultry farm with 20 layers. But he proposes to expand it so as to ensure an income of Rs. 500 per month. He has got 8 cattle, 2 bullocks, 3 buffaloes and 3 cows for whom green fodder is grown in a small portion of his farm. Not only does this ensure pure milk and ghee for the family but brings an additional income of Rs. 500 through the sale of the calves.

HEALTHY INFLUENCE

Shri Venkate is not alone in the field of intensive cultivation. His healthy influence has spread in the neighbouring villages too. A number of cultivators are vying with each other to produce more and to earn more from their fields. The increasing prosperity is clearly reflected in their standard of living, their food, dress and housing. Like Venkate, they are moving out of the village and settling in their newly built country-farm houses. I saw a number of these beautiful houses already built and being built on the cultivators' farms. They are electrified and well-equipped with all modern facilities. Each house has got a separate bedroom, drawing room, bath-room, kitchen, store-house for fuel and fodder, a cattle-shed with bricked flooring and provision for carrying cattle urine into a pit outside for composting. A kitchen-garden, poultry farm and a piggery unit are also common adjuncts of these country-farm houses. Silk-rearing is one of the common subsidiary industries followed there. Some of the enterprising cultivators have taken to the cultivation of rare items like Chikory and Pop-corn which used to be entirely imported till a ban was imposed on them sometimes ago.

Shri Venkate, apart from being a progressive farmer, is Chairman of the Panchayat of a group of five villages. In the discharge of his duties in the latter capacity, he has brought to bear the commonsense and realistic approach of a farmer: Agricultural production in the village has received considerable fillip, at his hands, More than one-third of the 150 cultivators in the village have prepared their Agricultural production plans. Twenty new wells have been sunk during the last year. The village service co-operative of which he is the Secretary has 120 members. It distributes improved seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to the farmers. The Young Farmers' Club is very active. It is soon going to have its own building which is under construction. Shri Venkate is taking special care to increase the community assets of the panchayat. Plans are afoot to plant chickoo fruit-trees on the village common land. Two shops owned by the Panchayat are under construction. The villages under the panchayat have been free from litigation for the past six years.

Parliament Questions & Answers

Below we give a gist of some of the Questions and Answers raised in the current session of the Parliament—EDITOR.

Q. What steps have been taken to channelise taccavi loans through the co-operatives? When is this programme likely to be completed?

A. State Governments have been advised by the Centre to discontinue issue of taccavi loans for normal production directly to individuals and instead to route such loans through co-operatives and to implement this policy according to a carefully worked out phased programme. It has been suggested that the effort should be to implement the programme in the entire State within a period of 3-5 years. However, it may not be possible to adhere to this time-schedule in the case of States like Assam or Bihar where the co-operative movement will have to be strengthened considerably before a start in this direction can be made.

Q. What is the relationship between the Village Volunteer Force and the Defence Labour Banks in the country?

A. The Village Volunteer Force consists of all the able-bodied adults in the village who volunteer to join it. The Defence Labour Bank, based on the voluntary donation of free labour at the rate of 1 day per month from every able-bodied adult or monetary contribution in lieu, is an integral part of the Village Volunteer Force. Recently, it has been suggested to the States that the minimum donation of labour at 12 days' per annum should be made a pre-condition for enrolment in the Village Volunteer Force.

Q. Under what conditions may the Central Co-operative Banks extend overdraft facilities to their customers?

A. The Central Co-operative Banks have been permitted to offer limited overdraft and other banking facilities to their depositors in order to attract deposits under the following conditions :

(1) Only long standing depositors who have assured or regular incomes should be eligible for such accommodation.

(2) The facility should be available only for short periods and for meeting emergent needs.

(3) The borrowers may be called upon to produce personal surety and where necessary to become nominal members.

(4) There should be specific limits both in regard to individual accommodation (which should bear a proportion to monthly income) and total limits so granted should not exceed a specified proportion of the over all deposits of the institution concerned.

Q. What is the new scheme for an integrated training programme for gram sahayaks, youth workers and women workers at village, block and district levels ?

A. According to the reorganised programme about four Gram Sahayak Camps will be held per Block per year for progressive farmers, including in particular, members of the younger age group and active members of the Village Volunteer Force. It is also proposed to hold about two camps per year per Block for active women workers. Camps of longer duration for youth leaders and associate women workers will continue to be held as at present at the training centres. This programme will be implemented during the remaining period of the Third Five Year Plan.

Q. What are the existing arrangements for effective functioning of Co-operatives in the Package Programme Districts?

A. The following arrangements have been made :

(1) Production plan for each member of the co-operative in the area of operation of the programme is being prepared. For preparing these plans additional Village Level Workers have been appointed in these areas. These plans show details about expenditure, income, repaying capacity etc. of the farmer.

(2) Co-operatives provide loans on the basis of these plans in cash and kind *viz.* fertilisers, seeds etc., to ensure effective utilisation.

(Continued on page 7)

VILLAGE ECONOMY OUTPACES POPULATION GROWTH

IT IS NOW admitted on all hands that the population problem in our country has assumed explosive dimensions. Its sharpness has received further edge because of the none-too-fast rate of the agricultural production. In this dismal atmosphere comes the heartening news from Burhnamau village in the Barhpur Block of Fatehgarh district in Uttar Pradesh where the rapid growth of population has been outpaced by economic development. The population of the village has gone up by 30 per cent during the last decade whereas its per capita income has increased by 42 per cent, during the period. The population rose from 895 to 1,173 and the per capita income from Rs. 225 to Rs. 360. The culturable land during the period, however, remained static at 200 acres.

Intensive cultivation has been the key to this phenomenal achievement. The villagers, by adopting improved farm practices such as use of fertilizers, green manures, improved seeds, improved implements, etc. are raising two, instead of one potato crop annually. Not an inch of cultur able land is left unused or uncared for. The eco

Shri Shambhoo Saran Dixit

A pucca tube-well channel constructed through village resources

nomic gains flowing from intensive cultivation, fuller occupation, scientific management of land, spirit of enterprise and co-operation have percolated to the lowest strata of the village community, particularly the Kapadias, a Scheduled Caste people, members of a wandering tribe who have been invited to settle in this village by its good people.

The economic progress has its root in psychological change which the people in the village have experienced under the inspiring leadership of their Pradhan, Sri Shambhoo Saran Dixit, who came to the village 12 years back as a stranger and resolved to develop it. Accepting

his leadership, the villagers have learnt the lessons of co-operation and self-help and have settled amicably among themselves several thorny social and economic problems, outstanding among which is consolidation of holdings and distribution of plots.

They have raised local resources and utilised State assistance for the construction of four tube-wells with pucca channels and buildings for two primary schools, one junior high school, co-operative seed store and panchayatghar-*cum*-community recreation centre. Six furlongs of pucca 'shramdan' road, connecting the village with the national highway, underground drainage and neat village lanes covered with bricks confirm the belief about the growing urge of the people for improved living.

The Harijan community in the village has freed itself completely from the deadening effects of the feeling of being untouchables. It has among it a large number of literates including graduates and post-graduates. Their 'bustee" too has been given a face-lift by about a dozen 'pucca' houses and drinking wells.

A model well in Harijan Basti to provide good drinking water

PARLIAMENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(*Continued from page 5*)

(3) For the effective implementation of these plans the normal credit limits of members are being liberalised wherever necessary.

(4) Additional staff of supervisors has been made available in these areas for more effective supervision and recovery of loans.

(5) A more effective linking of credit and marketing is being arranged.

(6) The Reserve Bank provides additional concessional finance for agricultural production in the areas of the programme taking into account the requirements as reflected in the production plans.

(7) To encourage co-operatives to lend adequately on the basis of the plans, particularly to the weaker sections of the community, outright grants are being given to them at enhanced rates *viz;* 4 per cent of the additional lendings in the case of primary societies against 3 per cent in other areas and 2 per cent to the central co-operative banks against 1 per cent in other areas.

Q. How many wholesale stores and consumer co-operative societies fed by the former, have been established throughout the country?

A. Up to July 1963, 102 wholesale stores and 1,388 primary stores/branches have been organised under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Consumers Co-operatives in various States. Most of these primary units have taken up business and are being fed by the wholesale stores.

Q. What progress has been made by the Defence Labour Banks all over the country ?

A. According to the reports received from the State Governments and Union Territories, 667.93 lakh man-days have been donated to the Defence Labour Banks, besides cash donations amounting to Rs. 9.89 lakhs. 63.13 lakh man-days have been utilised so far on programmes like land reclamation, excavation and construction of field channels, development of fisheries and poultry, plantation of fodder and fuel trees, digging of wells, dry farming, soil conservation including bunding etc.

FIVE-MILE ROAD B

(From

THE DAY-BREAK *of* 17th June, 1963 saw a vast concourse of humanity determined to build a five-mile road from Kaluvathur to Edachimoolar lying in Kottur Panchayat Union in Madras State. With spades, shovels and baskets in hand, fifteen thousand people had streamed in from all the 47 villages of the Panchayat Union for the "Operation Road Making". They had come on foot, on cycle, by bus and every other available means of transport. Among the workers present there were no less than one thousand women who were out to prove that they were equals of menfolk in nation-building activities. It was a sight to see the volunteers bubbling with enthusiasm to do a common task in a spirit of selfless service.

At exact eight in the morning, to the accompaniment of a band and village pipes, this large army of workers went into action to build the road. By about one o'clock, before it was time for lunch, the road had already taken shape at their hands. This work in the normal course would have taken a month or two to build and would have cost over Rs. 15,000.

A section of the road being built

To an observer, this motley crowd of men, women and eager children looked like the *Vanar Sena* of yore employed by Shri Ram Chandra to build a bridge across the sea to Lanka. The newly raised Village Volunteer Force in the village proved the real sinews of this huge crowd. The V.V.F. members of the various village panchayats took upon themselves the responsibility of organising and executing the whole work.

THE INSPIRATION

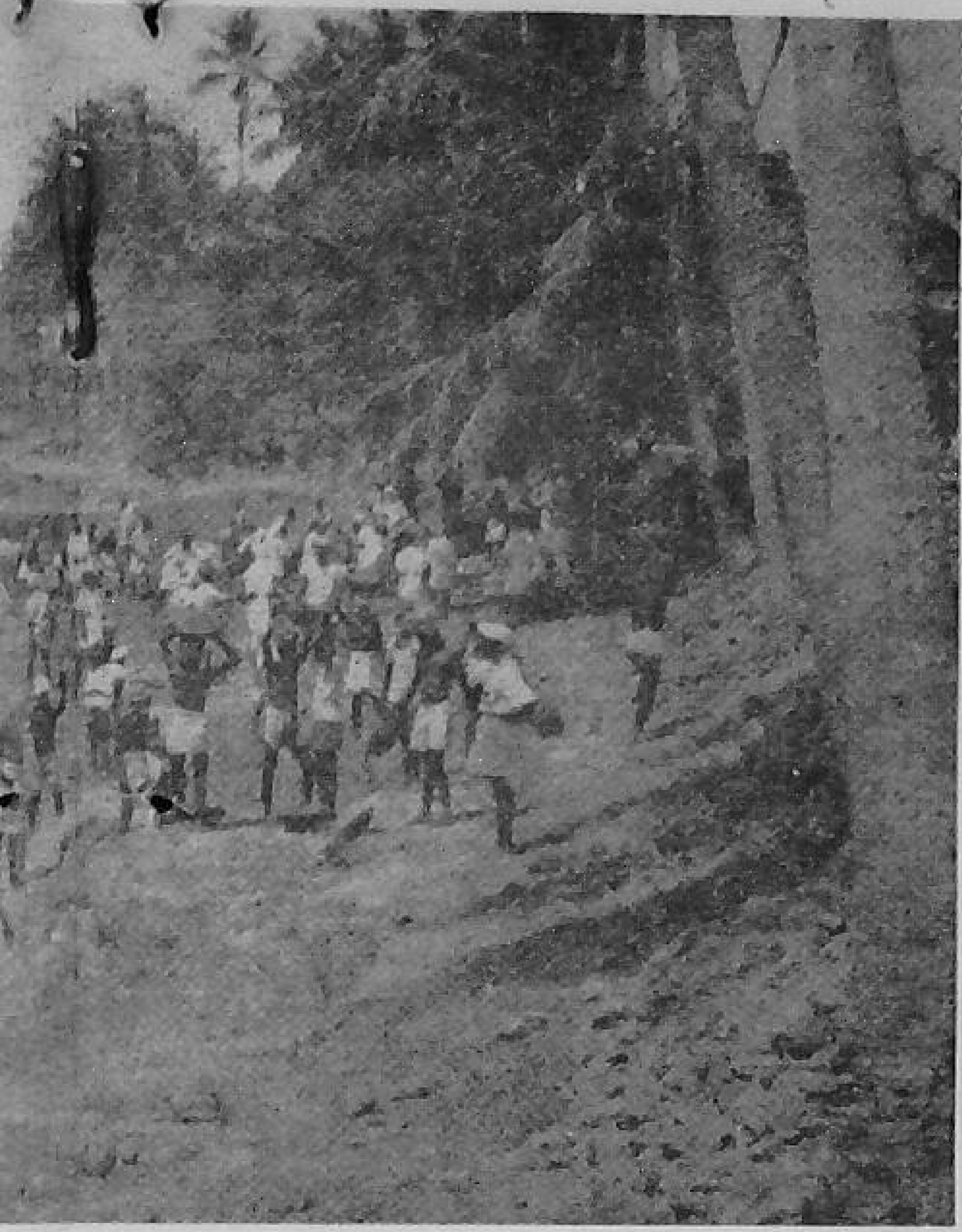
The inspiration for achieving this phenomenal success came from Shri S. G. Murugaiyan, Chairman of the Kottur Union Council. He had realized that the completion of this part of the road was essential to throw open about 20 villages with a population of about 20,000 to a free flow of traffic with the outside world. He represented to the authorities several times that the road should be taken up by Government for improvement but without any success. When the matter came up in the District Development Council he was informed that it may not be possible to take up the work immediately by the Government and it was suggested that the Village Volunteer Force could be well utilised for building the road. He realised that the Government were engaged in urgent and important work and that it was not proper to distract their attention. Consequently, he decided to build the road with the help of available local resources.

CAMPAIGN IS LAUNCHED

He spoke to the villagers and told them that the road did not require any special technical skill and also made them realise that if they looked to the Government to do the job for them it might be postponed indefinitely. He convinced

BUILT IN FIVE HOURS

(By Our Correspondent)



by the V.V.F. members and other villagers

all the 47 Panchayats in his Union to take up the stupendous task in their own hands. A Committee consisting of 17 members was constituted with Sri P. A. Thangavelu Onthiriyar, a public spirited person of the area as President. The Committee with the assistance of the block staff started an intensive propaganda drive amongst all the Panchayats constituting the Panchayat Union explaining the necessity for the work and the need for every villager to volunteer a day's free labour for the task. Meetings, individual contacts, announcements through mike fixed on jeep and distribution of about 20,000 handbills explaining the proposal, were some of the media adopted for the purpose. All the Panchayats took up the work with zeal and enthusiasm and enrolled volunteers. Not only the members of the Village Volunteer Force but also a number of other villagers volunteered themselves for the work. The villagers, old and young, handicapped and sick, women and school children came forward in large numbers. In some places, the entire village joined hands with the Village Volunteer Force. Duties were assigned and the areas divided. No casteism, communalism or local patriotism of any sort stood in the way of executing the work. Not even the economic inequality stood in the way of successful completion of the work. The tenant and the landlord, the lessee and the lessor, the rich and the poor, all participated equally in the performance. The volunteers were requested to bring their own implements like spades, baskets, etc. They were also asked to be at the workspot early in the morning, so that the work could be started at 8 a.m. sharp. The Committee made necessary arrangements for the supply of food packets to the volunteers in the afternoon and the generous offers of Sri P. A. Thangavelu Onthiriyar, President of the Road Committee and the Uthirathi Mutt of Thenparai to provide food for them were accepted. Five hundred baskets were also purchased by the Committee from local contributions for use during the operation.

The five-mile stretch had been divided into thirteen reaches keeping in view the number of volunteers who had opted for the work from each panchayat and the number of people who could be usefully employed in each reach. Volunteers numbering between 1,000 to 1,200 from each Panchayat had been allotted a specific reach in advance. Each region was placed under the charge of an Extension Officer and a Gram Sevak for guidance and encouragement. The point up to which the road was to be widened had clearly been demarcated in advance. Wherever necessary, arrangements had also been made to get and keep ready casurina piles and other material necessary for putting up modasals to prevent earth from slipping on the side.

AN OBJECT LESSON

Though the planners of the work had anticipated a gathering of about 10,000 volunteers

(*Continued on page* 15)

FIVE VILLAGE SCHEME
OF
JABALPORE ORIENTATION & STUDY CENTRE

"Example is better than precept" runs the age-old saying. Based on this principle is the Five Village Scheme adopted by the Orientation and Study Centres of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation. An example of the material change brought about in the five villages of its adoption is afforded by the Training Centre at Jabbalpur in Madhya Pradesh.

The Training Centre had selected the five villages of Raipura, Umaria, Pipariya, Mohania and Kushner for intensive development work. Though all the five villages had their own panchayats, none of them was active. They had their own internal dissensions. In Umaria village, the ex-malguzar was still a terror to many. The people had almost lost faith in the Gram Panchayat members. It was in such an atmosphere of all round frustration and mutual distrust that the development work was started there by the Training Centre.

In the beginning, the instructor and the trainees found it difficult to gain the confidence of the villagers. Uptill now, the villagers had known either the "Patwari" or the "Water-rate Collector". The latter meant awe, for money had to be paid at any cost on demand. It was rather difficult for them to imagine that any Government official could be so human as to think and act in terms of providing them with improved seeds, fertilisers and loans etc. The attitude of sixty-year old Jhullanram of village Umaria, popularly known as "Jhullan dada" was typical of their mentality. He would say, "Sahib! Whoever comes to the village comes to make it poorer and to increase our difficulties."

Undeterred by the non-too-favourable atmosphere of the villagers, the Instructor incharge, started his work in the true spirit of a Gram Sevak, not by replacing the Gram Sevak of the block but by supplementing him by more intensive work. He visited the villages repeatedly and made night halts. After some time, a good rapport was established and the villagers began to take interest in what the visitors from the Training Centre had to tell them. Their earlier mistrust and suspicion gave way to faith and trust in them.

PLANNING FROM BELOW

The first task that faced the instructor was to make the villagers to think, plan and act for themselves. Care was taken that nothing was imposed on them from above. They were helped to take stock of their problems and felt-needs and how to solve them. This process of collective thinking and planning was initiated through the village Panchayats. In course of time, the Panchayats became active. The Gram Panchayat members became alive to their responsibilities. Umaria Gram Panchayat called as many as seven meetings within a period of 4 months. The Gram Sabha meetings attended by a majority of the adult members of the village were also held from time to time.

The villagers realised early that their first task was to increase their agricultural production. At meetings of the Gram Sabha, individual farmers were asked to adopt various improved farming practices. On the basis of these individual family plans, Village Production Plans for the whole village were prepared. In this way all the villagers participated in evolving their own plans. The five villages began to compete with each other in the realisation of their respective targets. An unprecedented enthusiasm gripped all the villages and they achieved outstanding success in various fields of development activities.

AGRICULTURE

In Kushner, seventyfive per cent of the area was under Rabi crops especially wheat. The seed used was local and the cultivators complained that the yield was poor and susceptible to rust. It was explained that substituting the local seed with improved seed was the only solution. All the cultivators agreed to cover total area under

wheat with such seed if made available. Efforts were made and all sources contacted. It was very difficult to meet the demand as the "Government farm" was unable to supply the full quantity. After 21 quintals of good seed was located with the help of the block agency, co-operative was another hurdle to be crossed so that distribution could be done. Cultivators were made members of the Co-operative, and the seed distributed. It is unique to note that the villagers who had hitherto not heard the name of "Agrason" or any other substitute, had been fully convinced, and had covered cent per cent of their wheat area with "Agrason-treatment".

Introduction of "Nigre" as a green manure for "Rabi" is another good achievement. Green manure for "Rabi" seed was unknown in the area as under the "Haveli System" most of the Rabi area remains under water, collected by bunding, and wheat is sown after water is drained away. While discussing the village agriculture production plan the villagers of village "Raipura" were explained the advantage of green manuring. Sarpanch Shri Kalika Prasad argued that "Nigre" could hardly grow because the area would get water-logged. The other villagers supported him. The Instructor then replied, "Some of us may try this and find out what the result would be like. "Nigre" could be sown after the first showers up to July and may get about six-seven weeks to grow before water was filled in. The growth would be sufficient and the plants would then rot in water. The cost per acre would be about Rs. 1.25". Shri Kalika Prasad agreed and many others followed him. About 40 acres were covered like this.

Use of chemical fertilizers was almost unknown in village Mohania. The Patel Shri Prem Lal, a fairly well-to-do and active cultivator argued that fertilizer spoiled the land. During meetings of the villagers, instances of nearby villages were cited where use of fertilizers by the Extension Wing of the local Agricultural College had yielded very good results. Some of the villagers who had seen the crops on these demonstration plots confirmed the benefit of the use of fertilizers. As a result, some of the villagers were persuaded to give a trial and as many as 20 bags of Ammonium Sulphate were immediately distributed. Village Umaria distributed 180 maunds and on the whole about 25 to 30% of the total area under paddy was covered. Only two villages, *viz.*, Umaria and Piparia have irrigation facilities and the paddy area covered by fertilizers is 45% and 33% respectively.

Fruit plants had never been planted so far. Kitchen gardens were also unknown. At "Raipura" and "Kushner" the villagers were rather surprised to know that even good quality fruit plants and vegetable seedlings could also be supplied. As a trial about 200 "papaiya-plants" and 15 "lemon plants" were taken. They were distributed within half-an-hour. The next consignment was much more.

The Sarpanches of the villages took full responsibility on them for protecting the plants, properly storing them till they were distributed, keeping the accounts of distribution and also collecting their cost. The programme had caught the imagination of the people and although it was for the first time that the fruit plants had been supplied, the achievement was very satisfactory.

In village Umaria which is under command of "Barera" tank field, channels had not been constructed and irrigation was done from field to field. Since most of it was absorbed by the nearer fields many of the fields away from the main canal used to remain dry. Water-rate had to be paid even if water did not reach. The idea of constructing water-course was new. In the beginning the people objected but after persuasion water-courses over 9 thousand feet have been dug under the Defence Labour Bank and the Gram Panchayat has now decided to cover all the fields with such water courses so that maximum benefit of irrigation is obtained.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Mohaniya, one of the adopted villages, has about 400 buffaloes and dairy-farming is its main subsidiary industry. Milk from Mohaniya is supplied to as far as Jabbalpur city about 15 miles away. The problem of keeping good quality buffaloes had been engaging the attention of the cultivators and the practice followed so far was to purchase dry Murrah buffalo from outside every time they needed one. They used to get their buffaloes covered by paying a fee of Rs. 7 to Rs. 10 to a local owner of bull (buffalo) but the progeny was not good. Artificial insemination

also could not be successful for a number of reasons. The block authorities had, therefore, proposed that the Panchayat should get a good Murrah he-buffalo on subsidy and maintain it. The Gram Panchayat was to contribute about Rs. 200 as its share. Since the Panchayat had no funds, a special meeting of the villagers was called and it was decided that each buffalo owner should contribute at the rate of 0.43 NPs. per buffalo head.

A few ticklish problems however upset the scheme. Who will keep and feed the buffalo bull? Who will bear the cost and what will be the charges for a service and how will it serve 400 buffaloes a year? The scheme was almost dropped. Our Instructor again picked up the issue and through a series of group contacts, suggested that such a buffalo-bull could be maintained by a person having maximum number of buffaloes and that he should also form nucleus of a Co-operative Society formed for this specific purpose. Free or cheaper service may be given to the members, while others may be charged fully. The problem still remained as to where the bull was to be housed. Fortunately the Jabalpur Milk distribution scheme was started and Mohaniya being known for its milk industry was visited by the General Manager of the scheme, Shri L. N. Agarwal. He explained the scheme and suggested that all the milk produced by the villages would be purchased under the scheme, provided the villagers formed a "Milk Co-operative Society". Rates were to be fixed on the basis of the "fat content" and milk was to be collected through this Society. Loans for purchase of milch-animals were also to be advanced. The people were, however, suspicious. "What will happen if the scheme failed and to whom will they sell their milk once they had lost their old customers?" It was through the efforts of the Instructor that the people were convinced and the Milk Co-operative Society was formed. The Society gets a commission for handling the milk and has been assured of regular income. It is handling about 4 maunds of milk per day. It was now decided to purchase a he-buffalo and to maintain it under the charge of this Milk Co-operative Society. Shri Dondra Prasad of the village also volunteered to look after the buffalo. The villagers have paid their share of Rs. 180, and every thing has now been set for the purchase of he-buffalo Murrah-bull.

PISCICULTURE

Pisciculture in the area was considered a mystery. The villagers would surprisingly ask, "How could the fish seeds be caught and brought all the way by rail or plane from Calcutta? How could a small thing of the size of rice grow up to 3 lbs. in a year?" Shri Shiv Bhajan of Kushner, however, decided to give a trial. 6,000 fingerlings were imported and released in his tank. He is proud to be the first man in his area to undertake pisciculture and he is confident to make the best out of it. He proposes to stock another tank also in the near future.

PANCHAYAT TAXES PAID

The arrears of Panchayat taxes of Gram Panchayat Umaria had not been paid for over 10 years. But the villagers now realised that unless they fulfilled their small obligations towards the Panchayat, the larger interests of the community would suffer. A resolution was, therefore, passed unanimously to collect Panchayat dues of over Rs. 1,500 and people themselves fixed up the time limit as one "corp-season". More than Rs. 1,200 were voluntarily paid within a week. A task which had been considered impossible was thus completed.

V.V.F. AND D.L.B.

All the five villages have organised their Village Volunteer Forces and Defence Labour Banks. Dalpatis and Up-dalpatis have been trained. Other members of the V.V.F. have also been trained. In village Raipura the members repaired an approach road and also dug 10 compost pits. The V.V.F. at Umaria organised a training camp for 7 days which was attended by all its 25 members. It also prepared its programme for the next months. It is specially taking up work of increasing agriculture production. Records of the D.L.B. at Umariya have been maintained properly and 160 persons have promised to donate 12 days labour each in a year. About 68 persons have worked during the last 6 months under D.L.B. and the work done was about 629 "Man-days" and is estimated to be worth Rs. 1,024. This includes construction of 9,750 feet of water courses, bunding of 25

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FROM THE CENTRE

INTENSIFIED DEVELOPMENT

THE UNION Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation has decided to adopt an intensified approach in regard to selected programmes like land development, land reclamation, contour bunding, drainage and development of water resources so as to exploit the potential available in the various blocks. For this purpose the classification in C.D. blocks will have to be made and the types of programmes determined for implementation in each of these blocks. A Working Group with Shri B. Mukherji, Managing Director, State Bank of India, as Chairman, has been appointed by the Ministry to suggest the criteria for this classification and also recommend programmes for each of the blocks. The Working Group will also draw up a scheme for implementation of programmes like rural electrification and industrialisation for the purpose of diversifying rural economy.

* * *

INDIAN CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS

SHRI S. K. DEY, Union Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, addressing the fourth Indian Co-operative Congress said that the Co-operative movement in India must become independent of government assistance and develop its own leadership as early as possible.

He added that dependence on Government for a predominant share of the finances for the movement and freedom from control by government were contradiction in terms. Shri Dey gave the assurance that the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation would not stand in the way of any powers and responsibilities which the co-operative movement in any part of the country or any sector of its economy could assume for itself for the service of the country. He said that the Ministry would see to it that no co-operative formed to serve the community was interfered with by any government agency in the State or at the Centre if it is referred to the Ministry after having been agitated up to the federation level.

Shri Dey said that monopoly of either the public sector or the private sector may sometimes inflict tyranny on the people. It was, therefore, necessary to balance these two sectors to have a sector in-between which would belong to the people and which would involve institutional functioning of democratic methods in an economic way decentralised from the ground up to the national level. Shri Dey emphasised that the co-operative sector to perform its obligations must have the techniques of commercial and business efficiency and integrity and unity.

He said that they could not have co-operation in one sector of the country's economy alone. There can be no credit without being linked to marketing, nor marketing without being linked to processing and so on. Co-operation had to extend over every facet of the country's economy. In fact co-operation is indivisible.

Shri Dey further said there were many competing priorities in the Fourth Plan such as education, health, railways, transport etc. Unless there was a popular sanction and unless there was some overwhelming pressure on the government from the public, it was impossible for the Planning Commission and Government to give co-operation its due share. If there was organised and collective demand at every level, a ferment could be created all over the country and then in spite of competing priorities, co-operation would hold its own. Co-operation was today the enemy of the feudal, capitalistic and communal interests which still dominated the politics and economics of the country.

He said that political, social and economic democracy constituted the pillars of democratic socialism to which the country was committed. They were trying to build this up through the institutions of Panchayati Raj which are now in the process of formation in all the States. Panchayati Raj cannot function unless alongside there was Sahkari Samaj.

Shri Dey pointed out it was significant that those States in which co-operatives were functioning well were also doing well in agriculture.

(Continued on page 16)

SOME GLIMPSES OF

COMMUNITY SCHOOL BUILDING THROUGH PEOPLE'S CONTRIBUTION

THE PEOPLE of Anarad village in the Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh have contributed over fifty per cent of the cost of the primary school building constructed in their village. The total cost of the building is Rs. 8,249 out of which Government grant is Rs. 4,000 and people's share is Rs. 2,000 worth 'shramdan', Rs. 1,749 cash and Rs. 500 from Gram Panchayat Umaria.

* * *

FISHERIES BOOST INCOME OF ORISSA PANCHAYATS

THE PANCHAYATS of Orissa offer a striking example of the tremendous enthusiasm that may be released as a result of entrusting the ownership and responsibility of Community assets to them. Ever since the ownership of 40,000 village tanks was transferred to them two years ago, they have been taking keen interest in the raising of their revenues through development of fisheries. During the year 1961-62 the Panchayats have stocked 88 lakh fish fingerlings and earned Rs. 5.84 lakhs as revenue. On an average, each Panchayat Samiti has stocked 55,000 fish fingerlings, which is the highest for the whole of India. The State is now able to meet a major portion of its seed requirements from within the resources of the State itself; only about 10% of the fish seed is imported from Calcutta.

* * *

A CLEAN AND PROGRESSIVE VILLAGE

A PICTURE of cleanliness,—that is how Madhopur village in the Doomai Block of Fatehpur district may be described today. Seven years ago, a city-dweller, Sri Brahma Din Shukla, decided to make the village his permanent abode with the idea to serve the people there. The village at that time was infested with mosquitoes. It had no roads or drains nor clean drinking water wells. Sri Shukla had a tough job to do in fighting the prejudices of the village people and making them take interest in hard work. His perseverance, vision, sympathy and personal example did at long last have the desired effect. The village roads today have all been paved and an efficient system of drainage has been provided. It has a school with 30 students on its rolls. Each family has a chaff-cutter and each cultivator has taken to scientific method of sowing and farming. Village wells have been protected against pollution and a road connects the village with the nearest trunk road. The change has led to an improvement in the economy of the village. The standard of living of the people has gone up and their health is much better than what it used to be. Village urchins no longer loiter about anywhere and everywhere; they have a playground and a school to go to. Village women, who traditionally had been keeping away from public life, are keen participants in development work. Three of them are members of the panchayat. A village volunteer corps has so much captured the imagination of the village youth that in its training programme for civil defence, every able-bodied youth takes a live interest.

* * *

A PROGRESSIVE VILLAGE

PEOPLE'S co-operative efforts carried on with unflinching perseverance can bring rich fruits in the field of development activities. This has been well demonstrated by the people of village Pipalya Gopal in Shajapur district of Madhya Pradesh. They, with their contribution of Rs. 50,000 in cash and shramdan as against Government grant of Rs. 12,500, have completed many useful construction works in their village. It is a small village with a population of about 500. The villagers constructed a Panchayat Bhawan at a cost of Rs. 2,500, the Government contribution being Rs. 1,000 only. Near this Panchayat Bhawan, two school buildings have also been constructed. The Government granted Rs. 2,500 for these buildings while the villagers contributed Rs. 6,000 in cash and shramdan. For drinking water, the people of this village have sunk 4 pucca wells at a total cost of Rs. 7,000, the aid being Rs. 3,000. Besides, they have constructed about 1½ miles of road to connect their village with Shajapur-Berchha road. As against the Government grant of Rs. 7,000 for

this road, the villagers have offered shramdan and cash to the tune of Rs. 10,000. As a result of this road, the villagers are now getting better return from the town for their village produce.

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V.V.F. ACTIVE IN YELLAREDDY BLOCK

THE VILLAGE Volunteer Force and the Defence Labour Bank schemes were organised in Gandi Masanipet village of the Panchayat Samithi Block, Yellareddy in Andhra Pradesh with an initial membership of 186 men and 119 women. The Village Volunteer Force took upon itself the responsibility of contacting each one of the 170 families to explain about the emergency and the need for increased production. Plans for all the families were prepared and finalised by the Gram Sabha. The Village Volunteer Force also took up the work of repairing field channels, treating of 100% seeds with Agroson and spraying of endrine to control pest. The volunteers helped to bring the entire area of 310 acres under the Japanese method of paddy cultivation under paddy crops. The Village Volunteer Force secured 47 weeders. This effort of the Village Volunteer Force is likely to increase production by 25 to 30%. Besides this, the Village Volunteer Force had dug 86 compost pits and 47 urinal trenches and planted about 500 plants for green manure purpose. A 3-furlong internal road was constructed, one insanitary pit closed and 38 soakage pits dug. The 119 women volunteers took up the task of construction of smokeless chulhas, and they also raised 48 kitchen-gardens. The Village Volunteer Force reorganised the Radio Listening group of the village for effective publicity. The total value of the work done is Rs. 3,700.

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DRINKING WATER FOUND AT LAST

RAHMAN KAPA in Pandariya Development Block of Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh is a small Adivasi village tucked up in the thick of the forests. The inhabitants of the village experienced great difficulty in obtaining pure drinking water. They had to depend on the dirty water of a Nullah flowing about half a mile away from the village. During the summer, the Nullah used to get dried up and they had no water to drink.

During the Zamindari days an attempt was made to solve this problem and a well was dug 90 feet deep but no water could be struck. After the opening of the development Block, the attention of the development officials was drawn towards the dire necessity of finding out a source of drinking water. Consequently, with the peoples' co-operation, the Block officials made another attempt and dug well up to a depth 78 ft. without any success.

The people now gave up all hopes of ever finding a good source of drinking water. However, it was the Public Health Engineering Department which now came to their rescue.

FIVE-MILE ROAD BUILT IN FIVE HOURS

(*Continued from page 9*)

only, nearly 15,000 turned up and the whole work which was expected to be completed in 8 hours, was actually finished in 5 hours. Thus a work which should normally have taken a month or two to complete and would have cost Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 was finished in the course of a few hours without any expenditure.

Kottur has been an object lesson for all. It has inspired several other Panchayat Unions in the district to effect proper utilisation of the Village Volunteer Force in building up community assets on these lines. They have realised that with proper planning and intensive propaganda, the will and energy of the people can be effectively mobilised if there is a commonly felt need of the area.

FROM THE CENTRE

(*Continued from page 13*)

Those States in which co-operatives were moribund, agriculture also remained stagnant. Also in those States in which there were organised and enlightened public opinion, the State Governments never reduced the allocation for co-operation, but wanted to increase it. In contrast the States in which co-operation existed only in name, the allotment for co-operatives decreased from year to year.

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MEASURES TO PROMOTE CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

THE UNION Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation is planning a number of steps to promote the co-operative farming movement in the country.

Up to June this year, 994 co-operative farming societies were organised in 160 pilot projects with a membership of 19,823 and covering an area of 1.9 lakh acres. In addition, 949 societies outside the pilot project areas with a membership of 19,462 and covering an area of 1.21 lakh acres have also been started.

The 1963-64 programme is to organise 600 societies in pilot projects and 500 societies outside the pilot areas. Thus by the end of 1963-64 about 1,600 societies are likely to be set up in pilot areas and another 1,450 in the non-pilot areas. The expenditure by the end of 1964 is likely to be Rs. 3.50 crores.

Advisory Boards at the State level have been set up for planning and promoting the programme on sound lines. Arrangements for training of secretaries for co-operative farming societies and for orientation courses for workers connected with co-operative farming have been completed so far in 12 States.

Co-operative farming societies organised in the Third Plan have on an average a membership of 19 and an area of 107 acres in the pilot project areas. Seventyfive per cent of the societies are organised by traditional cultivators who pool their land for joint cultivation. The remaining 25% have been set up by the beneficiaries on government waste lands. In the case of pilot projects, 90% of the societies are joint farms. A large number of collective farming societies have been organised on Government waste lands in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh where a vigorous policy of utilising Government waste lands for co-operative farming is being pursued. It is likely that during the Third Plan period about 2,500 societies will be organised in the pilot areas. The progress over the States is, however, uneven.

FIVE VILLAGE SCHEME

(*Contd. from Page 12*)

acres of unbunded land, digging and filling of 32 new compost pits and construction of a school building which was held up for the last one year.

CO-OPERATIVES

Although co-operative societies had been in existence, they had hardly done any useful work. It was for the first time that the Co-operative Societies at Raipura and Kushner were successfully persuaded to take up the distribution of fertilizers and wheat seed. The multipurpose society at Kushner also took up the distribution of Sugar and is now proposing to collect milk for the "Milk Distribution Scheme" of Jabbalpur. Some of the members expressed doubts and felt that handling of milk might not be beneficial. A meeting was, therefore, arranged and the Manager of the Milk Scheme, Shri Agarwal explained the scheme to the villagers. Many doubts were raised and thrashed out through the sincere efforts of the Instructor. The villagers have now been convinced and the work will start very soon. Similarly at village Umariya "Gur and Khandsari Society" has been organised and registered. Proposals for obtaining assistance and loans from the Khadi and Village Industry Board have also been forwarded.

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TWO TALL CASH CROPS OF MYSORE

The Arecanut plantations constitute a valuab cash crop in Mysore.

Casuarina plantations in dry areas are a good source of income and fuel.

History was made in Kottur Panchayat Union, Andhra Pradesh when 15,000 V.V.F. members and other villagers built 5-mile long road in five hours.

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation.

Regd. No. D—877.